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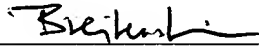
**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

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Date: July 8, 2004



Tilman Breitenstein

**Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is submitted in the above-identified national stage application of PCT/EP03/00027 filed on even date herewith.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.